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# ST. LOUIS CHAPTER WOMEN'S CAUCUS FOR ART

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*By Janice Nesser*

It has been an extremely busy year for the St. Louis Chapter of WCA. Over the past 10 months we have sponsored 3 artists' workshops - papermaking with Cindy Royal, bookmaking with MJ Goerke and collage with Mary Beth Shaw; 2 exhibitions - the members only collaborative exhibition with the Louisiana chapter 'Katrina Diaries' and the national juried exhibition Contemporary Women Artist XIV; a lecture by the nationally known self taught artist Judy Onofrio; 'Art Party in the Park' and a de-stressing workshop 'Interplay' at the Brentwood Center for Health. We have also set up our website and produced 3 newsletters.

And with all of that we are working on two upcoming exhibitions - a members only exhibition 'In Balance' in December, and a collaborative exhibition '1+1-3' (where two members create a piece of work together and then exhibit their collaboration with a piece of work of their own) opening in April 2008. We have a another membership business meeting in November and the annual holiday brunch in December. It is also that time of year we begin our 2008 membership drive. Our new membership secretary is Leslie Hume. Welcome Leslie. She has filled the position left vacant by Kay Belch. A special thanks to Kay for all her work these past few years. I would like to encourage you to send in your renewals early and to encourage other women to 'Come home, WCA'. I say 'come home' because whether you have been a member in the past or never been a member, WCA is a place where we can all belong. Whether you are an professional artist, an educator, a student, a hobbyist, a gallery director, an art administrator or you are just interested in supporting the arts, there is a room for you in WCA.

I would like to share with you some recent thoughts I emailed to the board because I feel these words apply to all of you who are WCA members:

"WCA is important to me as I know it is for you. The work we do however small has ripples of effects. Being part of this group is about doing something that is bigger than ourselves and our work. It is about building a community and a future where everyone's art is appreciated and everyone is nourished.

I want to thank you for all your hard work on behalf of WCA this last year.

You are a tremendous group of women. I am in awe of your talent, your passion and your willingness to give your time to

support other women artists. I want you to know how I treasure each of you and the work you have done this year. Mary Beth Shaw, at her recent presentation, said she felt she didn't do enough for WCA... how she doesn't even have time to come to the meetings, but believes in it. For me- Mary Beth, like all of you and our members do more than they realize. Being brought up a Catholic girl, I now have very Eastern philosophical beliefs... but I believe that there is no such thing as a small or menial job/act that every job/act carries great importance. That every time we do something, no matter how small, it has an effect in our world.

I look forward working with you in these last few months of 2007 but even more I look forward to an exciting 2008. Know that you have created ripples that coming together turn into tidal waves.

### MIDWEST AND NATIONAL UPDATES

The Midwest region covers Illinois, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Missouri, South Dakota, North Dakota, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Iowa, Kansas and Minnesota. We have currently have WCA chapters in Illinois, Nebraska, Missouri, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota and Michigan.

Increased communication was the goal for the Midwest chapters in 2007. To achieve that goal, I set up a contact email list for presidents (and some local board members) of all the chapters. I have sent emails to the group a few times over the past months to touch base and share any news I had received from other chapters. Another way I sought to increase communication was to join each chapter. I felt this was important for two reasons: First, it made me an official member of their local chapter. And second, I felt it would then afford me the opportunity to receive their emails and newsletter.

Goals for 2008 - To visit all the chapters; to become members of all the chapters; to hold a Midwest chapter retreat; to make an initial contact with women educators at universities/colleges in states that do not currently have WCA chapter.

**Indiana Chapter activities** - On May 10, Natalie Klein informed me that she resigned as president. Indiana elected 2 co-presidents - Ann Hamilton and Jeanne Kaplan. I passed this information on to Karin so the website would be updated

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## St. Louis WCA Members in the News

**Janice Nesser** will have work in The Faculty Art exhibition at the Foundry Art Center in St. Charles Nov 2-Dec 14. Opening reception Friday Nov 2 6-9pm. Janice has been awarded the prestigious Emerson Award for 'Excellence in Teaching'. She will receive her award on Sunday Nov 18 at a ceremony at the Ritz Carlton in Clayton. Janice has also recently accepted the nomination for President-Elect of the National WCA.

**Mary Beth Shaw** Mary Beth Shaw won Best 2D Mixed Media at the Krasl Art Fair. Her piece, *Blurring the Lines*, was awarded an Honorable Mention in the MO 50 competition. She participated in the St. Louis Art Fair and was part of a show at Third Floor Gallery. She is in an upcoming 3 person show, *Abstractions*, at Jacoby Arts Center which opens on November 16<sup>th</sup>. She was recently filmed for a PBS program, *In Context*, about people living their passion.

**Evie Shucart's** "nests II" won 4th place in the current exhibit at Creative Gallery. It is the Gateway Pastel Society annual show.

**Rochleigh Wolfe** was featured in the April/May Issue of Homes of Color. The article and pictures are about our "Black Artist of DC" exhibit and experience at Art Basel in Miami. She also exhibited in ART DC (Washington) May 2007.

**Virginia Dragschutz** exhibited in the following shows: "Katrina Diaries" at Maryville, "Forces of Nature" at Art St. Louis with "Voices," earned an Honorable Mention in the Art St. Louis exhibit "White Washed - Shades of White;" showed "Abstraction Innovation" at the St. Louis Artist Guild; Sukkot Shalom – Central Reform Congregation with "Many Roads;" and participated in *Plein aire* painting the Parks in St. Charles County in October at Klondike Park.

**M.J. Goerke** won the Second place Art Mart Award at the Guild show, "Prints, Drawings and Pastels" for one of her two pieces, "Three Songs of Shattering." She had a piece in the previous show. "Abstraction, Innovation and Experimentation." called "Filing". She opened November 2 at the Foundry in the Ameristar Gallery in the upcoming Faculty Exhibit for a one woman show and has work for a Group Four award in the following show, opening December 21 titled "Internal Illumination." She will be teaching a class in the spring at the Foundry in bookmaking. In the Spring of 2008 will be juror/curator of a book show at the Foundry.

**Carol Sue Horstman** is in the Artist Guild show MARKS ON PAPER the show runs through November.

**Jennifer Weigel** currently is exhibiting work in the "Sukkat Shalom" show at Central Reform Congregation in the Central West End, (which won a second place prize), a Dia de Los Muertos exhibit at the Maude Kerns Art Center in Eugene, OR and a Seven Deadly Sins show at the Fulton Street Gallery in Troy, NY. She recently participated in the Chicago Women's Caucus' Making Contact show at the Peter Jones Gallery in Chicago, IL and the "26th Brewer Science: Pure Enjoyment" exhibition at the Creamery Art Center in Springfield, MO.

**Cindy Royal** just had her inaugural reception for the Halloween show at SAM Gallery.

**Jeane Vogel** exhibited new work in the Art St. Louis' "Exhibition XXIII," WCA's Katrina Diaries, "Sukkat Shalom" at Central Reform Congregation, and the "26th Brewer Science: Pure Enjoyment" exhibition at the Creamery Art Center in Springfield, MO. New work also will be exhibited in January and February in the "Silver Magic," an exhibition of modern photography at Murray State University in Kentucky. Her hand-altered Polaroid photographs received Awards of Excellence at Geneva Fine Art Fair, Geneva, IL, and Art in the Park, Highland, IL. She has been commissioned by the Women of Reform Judaism to create original art for their national 2008-2009 calendars and holiday cards.

## Midwest & National Updates

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**Minnesota chapter activities-** Beginning with the July 28th meeting, the chapter initiated an art share program where one new member and one long-term member present their work. The goal is to have each established artist bring a young woman artist to present. They hope to use this as an outreach/membership tool. They had a presentation by Ann Markusen from the Humphrey Institute "Crossover: How Artists Build Careers across Commercial, Nonprofit and Community Work."

She shared data on women artists, how they are paid - US, Minnesota, Twin Cities. The chapter went on a field trip to New Richmond, Wisconsin to visit an exhibit at the SPACE gallery with our continuing exhibit theme "A Place at the Table." Jill Waterhouse chair was on display, as well as other pieces by Wisconsin artists.

They also went to another woman artist's farm and visited her studio. Some members attended the August film presentation at the downtown Minneapolis Library. Liz Dodson had her film "Why Reparations" shown at the Black Film Festival: the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom film.

**Michigan Chapter activities-** Michigan is a brand new chapter that began its formation in March under the powerhouse Brenda Oelbaum who was the Michigan coordinator for the feminist art project. They are still in the midst of writing bylaws and filing for tax status but have been involved in a flurry of activity. In July they had a booth at the National NOW conference and at the Ann Arbor Art Fair. They got out the prospectus for the Place At The Table Show at both events. They also have their website up and running. <http://www.wcamichigan.com>.

**Janice Nesser**  
Midwest Region, Vice-President WCA

### WCA-STL Board.

Dedicated to the cultural, aesthetic and economic value of Women's Art for over 30 years.

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*The St. Louis Chapter of the Women's Caucus for Art is a local chapter of the National Women's Caucus for Art.*

*Our mission is "To support and encourage the growth and development of women in the Arts."*

## Contemporary Women Artist Exhibition Highlighted Risk-Taking Work

The St. Louis Chapter of the Women's Caucus for Arts presented the biennial *Contemporary Women Artist Exhibition XIV* September 7- 29 at the Mad Art Gallery, 2727 S. 12th Street. The opening reception which was held on Friday September 7 was well attended with over 300 viewers coming out to see the work and to hear the jurors pre-reception speech.

Judy Onofrio, nationally known artist, juried this year's international competition and exhibition. In addition to jurying the exhibition, Onofrio presented a lecture on her work on Thursday, September 6, 6:30 pm at the Regional Arts Commission.

From over 200 submissions and 4 site specific installation proposals from across the country, Onofrio chose 53 pieces and 3 installations for the exhibition. "Because I believe that risk taking is essential to the growth of an artist, I found myself drawn to work that seemed to be on the brink of a significant breakthrough or discovery....The work reflected in this exhibition dealt not only with feminist issues but more personal and universal ones as well," she wrote in the exhibition juror's statement.

Onofrio presented the following awards at the opening reception: 1st place - Jane Rieso, 2nd place - Phyllis Hoffman, 3rd place - Allison Lacher and 4 honorable mentions to Teresa Wang, Judy Cooperman, Heather Collins and Katherine Cannistra.

Thank you to all our volunteers and supporters who made the exhibition possible. A special thank you the Missouri Arts Council, Craft Alliance and the St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley Art Department funding for the exhibition and lectures.

### WCA Exhibitions & Events- SAVE the DATES!

**Monday, Nov. 12** - pre-registration deadline for 'In Balance' exhibition.

**Monday, Nov. 12** - postmark deadline for 1 +1 = 2 collaborative work exhibition.

**Wednesday, Nov. 28 - 10AM** - drop off large works for In Balance exhibition at Brentwood Center for Health Thurs Nov 29 - 7pm -WCA membership business meeting.. and members show and tell. Olivette Community Center, Thursday, Nov. 29 (NOTE NEW DATE!!) - Drop off for small works (18" or less) for In Balance show at the membership meeting.

**Sunday, Dec. 16-** Annual members Holiday brunch get-together, Noon, 441 Deer Valley Drive.

### Webmaster Needed

We are looking for someone who can help maintain the website. Shannon Thomas did a wonderful job of designing it for us last spring. Thanks Shannon for all your work! But now we need someone who can keep it updated, upload newsletters and link other pages to it. Interested in helping out? Email art1hort2@mac.com

### Did You Miss Party in the Park?

If you missed the WCA Party in the Park and silent auction in July you missed an afternoon of good conversation and fun. A special thank you to Cindy Royal for planning/organizing the event, and to Jen Weigel for helping to set up. The silent auction raised \$178 for the Contemporary Exhibition.

# RENEW TODAY for 2008

It's time to renew your WCA-STL membership. Individual letters will be sent in the next few weeks but please take few minutes today to fill out the membership form and send it in... and consider asking a friend to join!

Did you know that the mission of the Women's Caucus for Art is to support and encourage the growth and development of ALL women in the arts? Artists, students, teachers, curators, historians, critics, collectors and art lovers- everyone is welcome! WCA is a place where we ALL can belong.

Here are some of the exciting opportunities that St. Louis Chapter has to offer our members.

1. Share your art and meet with other artists at the bi-monthly Art meetings.
2. Take advantage of our frequent Exhibition Opportunities - this year they included a collaborative exhibition 'Katrina Diaries' in June, the national juried exhibition. 'Contemporary Women's Artist XII' in September and the upcoming members only show "In Balance in December.
3. Enjoy reading four informative, jam-packed newsletters each year
4. Network and learn about breaking news on our Yahoo Group
5. Have your work and artist statement displayed on the new WCA-STL website

6. Participate in inter-chapter activities
7. Join in on our bi monthly meeting/workshops. This past year we had workshops in paper making with Cindy Royal, Bookmaking with MJ Goerke and collage with Mary Beth Shaw.

In addition, you can take advantage of special WCA National Membership benefits at [www.nationalwca.com](http://www.nationalwca.com)

1. Learn about dozens of monthly Artist's Opportunities.
2. Search the Matrix Database which contains over 1000 opportunities for artists and art historians
3. Gain access to Health Insurance through Fractured Atlas, an arts advocacy group
4. List your website in the Member's Gallery
5. Enjoy the convenience of the on-line Member's Directory
6. Receive magazine discounts to Aperture Magazine, ArtNews and Women's Art Journal
7. Obtain 10% off your on-line order at Utrect. WCA members also receive the national newsletters three times a year and a monthly e-mail digest of news and artist opportunities.

Join WCA today and take advantage of all that we have to offer you! If you would like more information about WCA, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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